



# WHAT IS NORTHAMPTON DOING TO PROMOTE A SUSTAINABLE CITY?

## Improving Energy Efficiency

- ☀ The new Senior Center was built to environmentally-friendly, energy efficient building standards (Silver LEED Rating).
- ☀ All red and green incandescent traffic lights have been replaced with high-efficiency LED bulbs.
- ☀ The DPW purchased and uses two high-efficiency Ford Escape Hybrid vehicles.
- ☀ The DPW downsized its meter-reading vehicles from 4-wheel drive to more efficient 2-wheel drive cars
- ☀ The City continues to improve the efficiency of City and school buildings.



## Turning to Clean and Renewable Energy

- ☀ Landfill gas is used to produce electricity—enough to power 528 energy-efficient homes while earning the City revenue from the sale of the gas.
- ☀ 10 kW solar-electric array on JFK Middle School produces enough electricity to power 6 classrooms, almost half of the second floor.
- ☀ Solar-electric-powered pay and display parking meters also reduce meter collection costs.
- ☀ All City diesel vehicles are run on 20% biodiesel—a diesel fuel made from plant oils that burns cleaner and reduces net greenhouse gas emissions over regular diesel.
- ☀ Pedal-people: downtown trash collection is now people-powered, not diesel powered.
- ☀ The City continues to convert City and school buildings from heating oil to cleaner-burning natural gas.
- ☀ Geothermal heat pumps reduce use of natural gas at the new Senior Center.
- ☀ The City has promoted signups for GreenUp and Clean Energy Choice and has earned \$146,000 to use on renewable and efficient energy projects as of September '07 through matching and bonus funds from the MTC Renewable Energy Trust.



Ruthy pulling a Pedal People trailer. (Photo by: Alex Jarrett, used with permission of the Pedal People)

## Planning for Wise Energy Use and Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- ☀ The City's Master Plan, *Sustainable Northampton*, is focused on Sustainability.
- ☀ The City is an official Cities for Climate Protection city and has completed a greenhouse gas inventory.
- ☀ An Energy and Sustainability Officer was recently hired to:
  - further increase the City's energy efficiency and use of renewable energy
  - ensure the City meets its climate protection goals
  - promote city-wide climate protection initiatives and support and assist businesses and residents with improving efficiency and use of renewable energy
- ☀ The City is reconstituting the Northampton Energy Resource Commission, an energy taskforce with appointed members.
- ☀ Energy audits of City and school buildings are ongoing to identify energy-saving upgrades.
- ☀ All new and renovated City buildings are to be designed to an environmentally-friendly LEED rating and incorporate renewable energy systems wherever possible.
- ☀ Traffic-flow improvements are in planning including development of roundabouts and bicycle and pedestrian-friendly intersections.
- ☀ The City has adopted an anti-idling policy for City vehicles.
- ☀ The City is growing its number of bike lanes and paths and has installed 140 bike-parking spaces and 12 bike lockers.
- ☀ The City's Transportation Plan calls for increased support of bicycle and pedestrian traffic.



Mayor Higgins at the JFK solar array with Peggy MacLeod and Tomasin Whitaker of CET, Jonathan Edwards and Bob Wall of Smartpower, and Martha Broad of MTC